

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 26, 2004 and cited references have been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-10 and 13-17 remain pending in the present application, claims 11, 12 and 18-23 having been withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to further define what Applicant regards as his invention.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 11, 12 and 18-23. As indicated in a prior response, claims 1-9 are generic to all species. The Examiner is requested to reinstate claims 11, 12 and 19-21 in the event claim 1 or 9 is found allowable and do an Examiner's amendment to change the dependency of claims 19-21 to be dependent from claim 11.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-10, 13, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Damron (U.S. Patent Number 5,271,605). The Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection. Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the following comments is respectfully solicited.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further define the invention by defining that the means for passing wire is attached to the inner edge of the aperture and that the means safely passes wire through the aperture at any angle in relation to a routing component. Independent claim 13 has been amended to further define the invention by defining that the at least one roller is rotatably attached to the inner edge and safely passes wire through the aperture at any angle in relation to the routing component. Support for these amendments is in the drawings and the specification. Figures 1-4 of the application show that the means for passing wire is attached to an inner edge of the aperture. Since the means for passing wire and the rollers are shown attached to each inner edge, wire may be safely passed through the aperture at any angle in relation to the routing component.

Damron teaches a guide pulley that is affixed in a frame that is dimensioned to fit within a standard electrical outlet. The guide pulley has a spring located mounting mechanism that is mounted in apertures that allow for positioning the guide pulley to the nearest position such that wire from the conduit to the guide pulley is the closest to being nearest to 180 degrees (i.e., is in the same plane as the centerline of the conduit that is attached to the box) as shown in Fig. 4 of Damron. Damron teaches at column 3, lines 3-12, that the wire is pulled straight forward in a line perpendicular to the wall or floor in which the

outlet box is mounted and that the pulley is positioned at the optimum point where the wire has the least frictional contact with parts of the outlet box. Damron also teaches at column 5 lines 18-21 that the bend of the wire is kept to a minimum with the wiring held in non-contacting relationship with the edges of the conduit or any other structures in the receptacles that may cause damage. Clearly, the guide pulley of Damron is not attached to an inner edge of the aperture. Furthermore, Damron teaches away from passing wire through the aperture at any angle in relation to a routing component such as the conduit of Damron. Therefore, Damron does not teach or suggest all of the elements of independent claims 1 or 13.

Claims 2-3, 5-10, 13, and 16-17 depend from claim 1 or 13 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth for claims 1 and 13. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-10, 13, and 16-17.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 as being unpatentable over Damron. The Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection. Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the following comments is respectfully solicited.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and is believed to be patentable for the same reasons as claim 1. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 4.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-15 as being unpatentable over Damron. The Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection. Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the following comments is respectfully solicited.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and are believed to be patentable for the same reasons as claim 13. Additionally, Damron teaches a pulley, which the Examiner considers to be a roller, that is mounted in apertures that are offset from the opening of Damron and mounted such that wire from the conduit to the guide pulley is the closest to being nearest to 180 degrees (i.e., is in the same plane as the centerline of the conduit that is attached to the box) as shown in Fig. 4 of Damron. This clearly teaches away from having roller adjacent the inner edge. Furthermore, the apertures are only on two walls of the tile wall cover box 10 of Damron. The roller of Damron cannot be placed in a position on the other walls as that would not allow the wire from the conduit to the guide pulley to be anywhere near 180 degrees as taught by Damron. Such a modification would render Damron unsuitable for its intended purpose and change the principle of operation of Damron. MPEP

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2143.01 prohibits modifications such as the modification of Damron because it changes the principle of operation and it also renders the prior art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose.

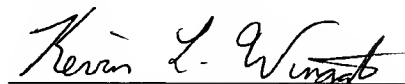
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 14 and 15.

Conclusion

The Examiner asked that the Applicant provide reference numbers to all the claimed limitations as well as support in the disclosure for better clarity. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner point out where in 35 U.S.C. or 37 C.F.R. that requires the Applicant to provide these reference numerals as requested by the Examiner. It is noted that this is a requirement of European patent law and the patent laws of other countries, but it is respectfully submitted this is not a requirement of the United States' patent laws. Furthermore, providing such a table could result in limiting the scope of the claims to which the Applicant is fairly, legally, and equitably entitled. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically point out where this requirement is found in the patent laws, or if this cannot be done, withdraw this requirement.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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